GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:54
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2001
SOCIAL AUDIT OF FOOD ITEMS GIVEN UNDER PDS
NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY;RAMESH CHAND TOMAR

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to ask for utilisation certificates and social audit of food items given to various States under Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, whether State Governments have in principle agreed to give utilisation certificates to the Union Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) to what extent the social audit of the food items is going to check diversion of food items allocated under PDS?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR)

(a),(b),(c) & (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a),(b),(c) & (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 54 FOR ANSWER IN THE SABHA ON 23.02.2001.

(a),(b),(c) & (d) : With a view to devising a mechanism to ensure the foodgrains lifted by the State Governments from Central godowns get actually distributed to the beneficiaries under the Targetted Public Distribution System, the Government of India has suggested that future allotments of foodgrains be linked to the receipt of a certificate from the State Governments to the effect that the allotted quantities of foodgrains have been actually distributed to the beneficiaries. The Guidelines issued by the Government of India in regard to the Antyodaya Anna Yojana launched recently provide that the allocation of foodgrains to the States will be linked to the receipt of Utilisation Certificates from them to the effect that the foodgrains already allocated have actually reached the Antyodaya families. In principle the States have agreed to the suggestion and have asked for a lead time of 3-4 months for submission of Utilisation Certificates.

The Government of India has advised the State Governments to substantially involve the Gram Panchayats in the supervision and monitoring of the Public Distribution System, especially at the Fair Price Shop level, as a measure of social audit. It is expected that the involvement of Panchayat Raj Institutions in the implementation of the Public Distribution System at the grass root level will make the said System transparent and accountable and thereby help in checking the diversion of PDS commodities to a great extent.